

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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DOE-11 SOE-02 STR-07 SIL-01 LAB-04 EB-08 TRSE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5856
INFO EC COLLECTIVE
CANBERRA 0155
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I C L COPENHAGEN 0761

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS: PORG, UN
SUBJ: UN OVERVIEW: FIRST MEETING, FEBRUARY 13, 1978

REF: STATE 17255

1. MOGENS ISAKSEN, WHOSE RANK IS ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO THAT OF A
U.S. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY, WILL ATTEND THE FIRST U.N.
OVERVIEW MEETING IN NEW YORK. ISAKSEN HEADS THE FOREIGN MINISTRY
OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.
OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DANISH DELEGATION TO THE OVERVIEW MEETING
WILL BE DRAWN FROM THE DANISH UN MISSION.

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2. CONCERNING THE U.S. VIEWS CONTAINED IN REFTTEL, ISAKSEN MADE
THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:
A. OBJECTIVES: WHILE THE DANES DID NOT FAVOR THE OVERVIEW
COMMITTEE AS PRESENTLY PROVIDED FOR, THEY FEEL STRONGLY THAT
THE COMMITTEE IS A NEW INSTRUMENT FOR NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AND
THAT THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES "MUST FIND A WAY TO USE IT IN A

FLEXIBLE AND BUSINESSLIKE MANNER." THE DANES BELIEVE THAT THE U.S. IS UNREALISTIC IN THINKING THAT THE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS "ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACING THE ENTIRE WORLD COMMUNITY" AND THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER FROM THE START TO RECOGNIZE THE COMMITTEE AS A FORUM FOR NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. THE DANES AGREE COMPLETELY WITH THE U.S., HOWEVER, THAT THE COMMITTEE SHOULD NOT BE A NEGOTIATING BODY.

B. OVERALL APPROACH - THE DANES AGREE THAT REPRESENTATION SHOULD BE AT THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL AND THAT ANY RECOMMENDATIONS OR CONCLUSIONS SHOULD BE REACHED ON A CONSENSUS BASIS.

C. ORGANIZATION - LIKE THE U.S., DENMARK PREFERS ONE CHAIRMAN (NOTE: ISAKSEN BELIEVES THAT THE GROUP OF 77 WILL WANT THE CHAIRMANSHIP THE SECOND YEAR, WHEN THE COMMITTEE'S WORK WILL BE DRAWING TO A CLOSE, AND WILL THEREFORE AGREE TO A DEVELOPED COUNTRY CHAIRMAN THE FIRST YEAR. ISAKSEN EXPECTS NORWAY TO BE A SERIOUS CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION, IN WHICH CASE DENMARK WILL SUPPORT IT). DENMARK'S MOST SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT U.S. VIEWS, SAID ISAKSEN, RELATES TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUBSTANTIVE STEERING GROUP. DENMARK AGREES IN PRINCIPLE THAT SUCH A GROUP IS DESIRABLE BUT IS FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT THE GROUP IS DESIRABLE BUT IS FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT THE GROUP OF 77 WILL NOT ACCEPT ONE. IF THE U.S. PRESSES THE POINT, THEREFORE, THERE WILL BE CONFRONTATION, LEADING TO A BREAKDOWN OF "THIS NEW INSTRUMENT." ISAKSEN COUNSELS THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO LET MATTERS DEVELOP NATURALLY. HE REASONS THAT THE GROUP OF 77 WILL REALIZE THAT A
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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE CANNOT FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY. BECAUSE THEY WANT POSITIVE RESULTS FROM THIS FORUM, THEY WILL EVENTUALLY AGREE TO SOMETHING APPROXIMATING THE U.S. CONCEPT OF A STEERING GROUP.

D. MEETINGS - THE DANES AGREE THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO OVERVIEW WORKING GROUPS THAT MEET WHEN THE COMMITTEE ITSELF IS NOT IN SESSION. ISAKSEN FORESEES, HOWEVER, THAT SOMETHING RESEMBLING WORKING GROUPS MAY BE NEEDED TO HANDLE CERTAIN MATTERS WHEN THE COMMITTEE IS IN SESSION.

E. AGENDA - ISAKSEN THOUGHT THE U.S. PROPOSAL FOR STRUCTURING THE AGENDA WITH THREE MAIN SUB-ITEMS SEEMED TOO "ABSTRACT AND THEORETICAL." THE DANES, HE SAID, CANNOT ACCEPT THE PROPOSALS MADE AT JAMAICA EITHER, BUT HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO FIND A CROSS BETWEEN THE JAMAICA AND U.S. PROPOSALS, I.E., CATEGORIES THAT ARE "MORE CONCRETE" BUT STILL VERY BROAD.

F. LOCUS - DENMARK PREFERS THAT ALL OVERVIEW COMMITTEE MEETINGS, INCLUDING THOSE OF A POSSIBLE STEERING COMMITTEE, BE HALD AT U.N. HEADQUARTERS.

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